

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Pascal THOMAS et al.

Appln. No. : 10/042,241

Filed : January 11, 2002

For : FRONT RETAINING ELEMENT
FOR AN ALPINE SKI BOOT

Technology Center 3600

Examiner Unknown

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following materials were cited in a search report in the French priority application upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

French Patent Publication No. 2 663 856 (SALOMON S.A.), published on January 3, 1992, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 5, and 6 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of FR '856 is cited as being pertinent.

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U.S. Patent No. 5,092,622 (WLADAR et al.), issued on March 3, 1992, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1 and 8 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '622 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 4,660,849 (SEDLMAIR et al.), issued on April 28, 1987, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1 and 5-7 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '849 is cited as being pertinent. In addition, US '849 is cited in paragraph [0040] of the instant application.

In addition to the above-mentioned documents that had been cited in the search report of Applicants' priority application, the following documents are cited as being relevant for reasons cited in the specification of the instant application.

European Patent No. 0 126 275 (FAULIN), published on November 28, 1984, is cited in paragraph [0007] of the specification of the instant application.

French Patent Publication No. 2 640 516 (SALOMON S.A.), published on June 22, 1990, is cited in paragraph [0018] of the specification of the instant application.

U.S. Patent No. 5,044,658 (CHALLANDE), issued on September 3, 1991, is cited in paragraph [0018] of the specification of the instant application and is a family member of FR '516.

European Patent Publication No. 0 653 231 (SALOMON S.A.), published on May 17, 1995, is cited in paragraph [0023] of the specification of the instant application.

U.S. Patent No. 5,890,731 (CHALLANDE et al.), issued on April 6, 1999, is cited in paragraph [0018] of the specification of the instant application and is a family member of EP '231.

French Patent Publication No. 2 651 145 (SALOMON S.A.), published on March 1, 1999, is cited in paragraph [0026] of the specification of the instant application.

U.S. Patent No. 5,211,419 (GORLIEZ et al.), issued on May 18, 1993, is cited in paragraph [0026] of the specification of the instant application and is a family member of FR '145.

French Patent Publication No. 2 420 359 (SALOMON S.A.), published on October 19, 1979, is cited in paragraph [0034] of the specification of the instant application.

U.S. Patent No. 4,337,965 (SALOMON), issued on July 6, 1982, is cited in paragraph [0026] of the specification of the instant application and is a family member of FR '359.

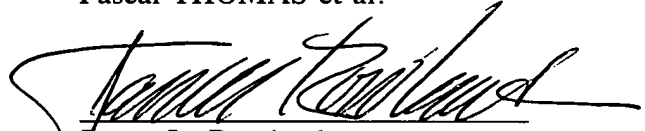
International Patent Publication No. WO 85/03451 (MARKER), published on August 15, 1985, is cited in paragraph [0040] of the specification of the instant application and is a family member of US '849.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is enclosed herewith. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 forms to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 forms and returning a copy of each of the initialled forms to Applicants.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned
at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Pascal THOMAS et al.


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April 10, 2002
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